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From: Joshua Silberberg
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 9:09 AM
To: Joshua Silberberg
Subject: Serbia challenges Iowa National Guard partnership with Kosovo

This morning in The Des Moines Register you'll find an op-ed by Serbian Ambassador Vladimir Petrovic which challenges the recent decision partnering the Iowa National Guard with the authorities in Kosovo. It is available online at <http://bit.ly/e5ZkzV>

Governor Barnstad announced last month that he was "delighted to announce the establishment of a State Partnership Program with the Republic of Kosovo, a great friend to the United States..."

As you may be aware, in December the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly adopted a report which alleges that today's Kosovo leadership is responsible for the kidnapping of hundreds of civilians from the Serbian province and sending them to secret detention camps in Albania where they were singled out for forced surgery before being murdered and having their organs sold on the black market. The Council of Europe also alleges that Hashim Thaqi, who serves as the prime minister of the ethnic Albanians and was specifically named in the report as the head of a "mafia-like" group within the Kosovo Liberation Army responsible for smuggling weapons, heroin, and human organs, also ordered and in some cases personally oversaw assassinations, detentions, beatings and interrogations.

These serious allegations were based upon numerous testimonial accounts and the findings of multiple European intelligence and law enforcement agencies. A proper investigation has not yet begun. Please take a moment to read over the piece and don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

These materials are distributed by 30 Point Strategies on behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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